

### *Abstract of the Disclosure*

*Replace the present Abstract with the following Abstract:*

An apparatus for disintegrating articles of degradable or non-degradable material, includes a rotatable knife unit driven by a motor via a mechanical power transmission device. The knife unit blade on rotation of the knife unit in a chamber moves along a chamber wall a part of which has perforations. In the event of a jamming of the knife unit in the chamber or a predetermined working resistance is exceeded, then at least a partial disconnection occurs between the power transmission device and the knife unit. The power transmission device includes a flywheel which can be partly disconnected mechanically from the rotating mass of the knife unit. The mechanical power transmission device includes a flywheel and a centrifugal force based clutch mechanism for sudden power engagement with a coupling device and thence with the knife unit when the flywheel reaches a predetermined rotational speed.